

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and reconsideration of the Office Action mailed March 17, 2010.

I. General Description of the Content of this Amendment

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 6, 8, 16, 18, and 26-33 will be pending in this application. Through this Amendment, Applicant has amended the independent claims to more specifically recite that plural electronic components and connecting lines between them are formed on a surface of a single fiber. Support for these changes is readily evident throughout the original specification and drawings, including original Fig. 1 (e.g., components 107 and connecting lines 109 formed on single fiber 103A) and the corresponding description thereof. Support for new dependent claims 26, 28, 30, and 32 can be found, for example, in original Paragraph [16] and is illustrated in Fig. 2. Support for new dependent claims 27, 29, 31, and 33 can be found, for example, in original Figs. 2-3B and the corresponding description thereof. No new matter is included in this Amendment, and no additional claim fees are due as a result of this Amendment.

The presentation of these claim amendments should not be construed as an admission that Applicant agrees with or acquiesces in any of the grounds of rejection raised against any of the claims previously presented in this application. Rather, Applicant makes these claim changes without prejudice or disclaimer in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application and to facilitate the immediate allowance of this application. Applicant reserves all rights with respect to any of the previously presented claims, including the right to present claims of the same or similar scope in the future, e.g., in a continuing application.

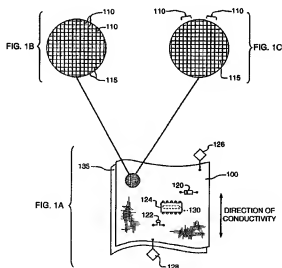
II. The Claims Patentably Distinguish from Post and Okuhashi

In the March 17, 2010, Office Action, the Office rejected claims 6, 8, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious from the combination of Post, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,210,771 (hereinafter “Post”) with Okuhashi, U.S. Patent No. 3,586,597 (hereinafter “Okuhashi”). See the March 17, 2010, Office Action at pp. 2-6. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration.

Applicant’s independent claim 6 recites a method of forming an article of wear. This claimed method includes: (a) forming at least a first electronic component and a second electronic

component on a surface of a single fiber; (b) forming a connection line on the surface of the single fiber to connect the first electronic component and the second electronic component; (c) forming a protective layer over the first and second electronic components, wherein the protective layer is a layer of shield material; (d) interlacing the single fiber with other fibers to form a piece of fabric; and (e) forming an article of wear with the fabric. Applicant respectfully asserts that this method is not taught or suggested by Post.

More specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that Post does not disclose or suggest the formation of multiple electronic components and a connection line between these components on a single fiber of a piece of fabric. In the March 17, 2010, Office Action, the Office points to column 4, lines 15-51 of Post as showing connection of electronic components with a single fiber element. See the March 17, 2010, Office Action at p. 3, lines 9-10. Applicant respectfully asserts, however, that this portion of Post, at best, merely refers to attaching leads of an external resistor 120 or capacitor 122, or pins of an external integrated circuit 124, to a single conductive fiber 110 of a fabric 100. See Post at column 4, lines 35-40. This cited portion of Post refers to Figs. 1A and 1B of Post, which are reproduced below:



Notably, as shown in these figures of Post, only the leads of the illustrated resistor 120, capacitor 122, and/or pins of the integrated circuit 124 are connected to the fibers 110 of the fabric 100. This cited portion of Post does not disclose that these electronic components (i.e., the resistor 120, capacitor 122, or integrated circuit 124) and connecting lines therebetween are themselves formed

on a single fiber. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 6 and its associated dependent claims patentably distinguish from Post.

Applicant's independent claim 8 also recites a method of forming an article of wear. This claimed method includes: (a) forming at least a first electronic component, a second electronic component, and a third electronic component on a surface of a single fiber; (b) forming a first connection line on the surface of the single fiber to connect the first electronic component and the second electronic component; (c) forming a second connection line on the surface of the single fiber to connect the second electronic component and the third electronic component; (d) forming a shield layer over the first, second, and third electronic components; (e) interlacing the single fiber with other fibers to form a piece of fabric; and (f) forming an article of wear with the fabric. For the reasons described above in conjunction with claim 6, Applicant respectfully asserts that Post does not describe a method of forming an article of wear that includes forming at least three electronic components and two connecting lines between these components on a surface of a single fiber. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 8 and its associated dependent claims also patentably distinguish from Post.

Applicant's independent claim 16 recites an article of wear that includes a piece of clothing material. The claim further recites that at least a first electronic component and a second electronic component are formed over a surface of a single fiber in the piece of clothing material, wherein the surface of the single fiber further includes a connection line connecting the first and second electronic components. Finally, the claim also recites a protective layer formed over the first and second electronic components, wherein the protective layer is a layer of shield material. For the reasons described above in conjunction with claim 6, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 16 and its associated dependent claims patentably distinguish from Post.

Applicant's independent claim 18 also recites an article of wear. This claimed article of wear includes a piece of clothing material wherein at least a first electronic component, a second electronic component, and a third electronic component are formed over a surface of a single fiber in the piece of clothing material, and wherein the surface of the single fiber further includes a first connection line connecting the first and second electronic components and a second connection line connecting the second and third electronic components. The claim further recites a shield layer formed over the first, second, and third electronic components. For the reasons described

above in conjunction with claims 6 and 8, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 18 and its associated dependent claims patentably distinguish from Post.

Applicant further asserts that the cited Okuhashi patent does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Post, nor is it relied upon by the Office for that purpose. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that amended claims 6, 8, 16, and 18 patentably distinguish from the cited Post and Okuhashi patents, whether considered alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully asserts that all of the presently pending claims patentably distinguish from the cited art and stand in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Applicant also has presented dependent new claims 26-33 by this Amendment. Dependent claims 26, 28, 30, and 32 further recite that the single fiber surface includes a substrate formed over a portion of its circumference, wherein the electronic components are formed on a surface of the substrate. As noted in Paragraphs [16] and [17] in Applicant's specification, this feature better allows the fiber to retain its native properties (e.g., flexibility, appearance) while providing a stable base for the electronic components and connecting lines. Applicant respectfully submits that this feature is not taught or suggested by Post and/or Okuhashi. Dependent claims 27, 29, 31, and 33 further recite that at least one of the electronic components is a transistor. Applicant respectfully submits that Post and Okuhashi do not describe the formation of a transistor on a single fiber surface.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that newly added dependent claims 26 through 33 patentably distinguish over the cited art. Allowance of these claim is earnestly solicited.

III. Information Disclosure Information

Applicant takes this opportunity to advise the Examiner of an Information Disclosure Statement filed in this application on August 16, 2010. Additionally, Applicant reminds the Examiner that a child patent application of this present application, U.S. Patent Appln. No. 12/258,218, remains pending (Examiner Muromoto is also the examiner in this child application). Applicant advises that the claims in U.S. Patent Appln. No. 12/258,218 also recite that electronic components are formed on a surface of a single fiber.

IV. Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or an interview will be useful to advance the prosecution of this application and/or to place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to debit Deposit Account No. 19-0733 for the fees associated with the three (3) month extension of time, as noted above. If any other fees are necessary to facilitate entry and consideration of this Amendment and/or to maintain the pending status of this application, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and/or 1.17, those fees also may be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

All rejections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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